

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O 241611 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6687

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

S E C R E T OSLO 1967

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR IC UK NO

SUBJECT: PROPOSED NATO ROLE IN ICELANDIC FISHERIES DISPUTE

REF: (A) USNATO 2527 (B) OSLO 1918 (C) USNATO 2530

1. WE ENDORSE THE IDEA OF GIVING A BOOST IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL TO THE NORWEGIAN GOVT' S MEDIATION OFFER, AS SUGGESTED IN PARA 3 E OF REF A. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE OFFER APPEARS TO BE A CONDITIONAL ONE WHICH MAY PROVE TO BE A NON- STARTER SO FAR AS THE BRITISH ARE CONCERNED. OUR BRITISH COLLEAGUES HERE TELL US THAT THE DEMARCHE WHICH FONMIN VAARVIK MADE TO THE BRITISH AMB ON MAY 22, AND WHICH WAS TO BE REPEATED IN LONDON BY THE NORWEGIAN AMB ON MAY 23, SUGGESTED NORWEGIAN WILLINGNESS TO MEDIATE AFTER RPT AFTER THE BRITISH FRIGATES HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN. THE BRITISH HERE DO NOT, OF COURSE, KNOW HOW LONDON WILL REACT, BUT THEY ASSUME IT WILL REITERATE THAT THE FRIGATES WILL BE WITHDRAWN AS SOON AS ICELAND AGREES TO STOP HARRASSING BRITISH TRAWLERS.

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2. AS FOR CALLING UPON A "DISTINGUISHED SCANDINAVIAN STATES-MAN" AS AN INDIVIDUAL MEDIATOR (PARA 3 F, REF A), WE MAY HAVE OTHER SUGGESTIONS LATER, BUT THE FIRST NAME THAT COMES TO MIND IS EDVARD HAMBRO, FORMER NORWEGIAN AMB TO THE UN AND EX- PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. AS AN INTERNATIONAL LAWYER OF SOME REPUTE, LONG ASSOCIATED WITH THE WORLD COURT AND THE PERMANENT COURT OF INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION, HIS CREDENTIALS ARE IMPRESSIVE. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS FORMER LONG- TIME NORWEGIAN PRIMIN EINAR GERHARDSSEN. THOUGH NOT A LAWYER, HE IS SKILLED IN POLITICS AND NEGOTIATION AND PRESUMABLY IS FAVORABLY KNOWN TO BOTH GOVTS. CROWE

SECRET
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973OSLO01967
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730553/aaaajsss.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 73 USNATO 2527 (B) OSLO 1918 (C)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980304
Subject: PROPOSED NATO ROLE IN ICELANDIC FISHERIES DISPUTE
TAGS: PBOR, IC, NO, UK, PBOR
To: BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
LONDON
NATO
REYKJAVIK
SECSTATE WASHDC

SS

USUN NEW YORK

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005